

Teen Driver Task Force Meeting – Meeting Minutes

5/1/18

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Public Safety Building – DMV

OHS Conference Room – 2nd Floor

Dover, DE

Attendees:

Jana Simpler, Office of Highway Safety
Sarah Cattie, Office of Highway Safety
Michael Wagner, DOE – Driver Education
Tracy Condon, DSP
Pete Booker, SmartDrive Foundation
Anthony Kwoka, DOE – Driver Education
George Merrill, DATE (attending for John Yeomans)

Sarah Cattie shared information about the results of the OHS/Safe Kids “Take It from a Teen” video.

She is also working on the GDL POP updates and expects to have the project completed in time for the start of the new school year at the end of August.

Sarah also requested information/photos for the FY 18 Annual Report due to the General Assembly by June 30. She will follow up with requests to each member.

National Teen Driver Safety Week for 2018 is October 21 – 27.

Individual Member Updates:

Jana Simpler – OHS and DOE are working with NTSB to sponsor the Global Youth Traffic Safety Summit, to be held at Polytech High School on May 22. 150 Students are expected from Polytech, Lake Forest, Sussex Tech, and Newark Charter. There are 4 breakout sessions, to include a victim advocate, law enforcement, and outdoor stations with Ford Driving Skills for Life and SmartDrive. Jana asked Tracy for information regarding the “traffic convincer” to use at the program as well.

Tracy Condon – Drive to Save Lives took place April 20-21. There were concerns with it leading up to the event in terms of manpower, but it came together. August 3-4 DSP will be focusing on Back to School Safety (instead of Teen Driver Week in October). The DSP Distracted Driving van initiative was successful and Tracy has seen a decrease in texting drivers on Route 1.

Pete Booker – He is gathering stats for Click 4 Life. SmartDrive has been working with Jobs for Delaware Grads and promoting student-led seat belt checks. PROMise is happening right now, with Caesar Rodney HS winning the “large school” prize for participation. Smaller schools will be announced soon. Pete is working with Wilmington University on a program called SmartU – with 3,000 participants so far. Last weekend’s car show was SmartDrive’s big fundraiser for the year and they will also be participating in the Wilmington Flower Market. SmartDrive will be moving its’ office location to the Delaware Safety Council’s location (Penn’s Way) and looks forward to collaborating with them on some projects.

Anthony Kwoka – The 30th Driver's Education Driving Competition will take place on May 16 at Dover Downs. There have been some issues with participation this year and it may be pushed back next year to April. DDSEA is also going to recognize a "Teacher of the Year" to help increase morale among the Driver's Education teachers. The winner will be announced at the competition. There has been more of a push to discuss driver interaction with the police. There is currently nothing in the curriculum. It might be worth it for this group to assist with the lesson plan.

A general discussion began regarding Senate Bill 168 – <https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail/26440>

This bill would require two questions on the driver's license examination to cover interactions between drivers and law enforcement. State-approved driver education course must demonstrate knowledge related to traffic stops by law-enforcement officers – along with two questions on the course examination in regards to this subject.

DOE is planning on forming a committee to work on the lesson plan and they want to work on a video as well.

George Merrill – DATE is sponsoring the Safe Prom Ridge program and will have officers driving students at Sussex Tech and Cape Henlopen. They are working with the SROs to provide pre-prom talks about safety. DATE will be sponsoring a Youth Academy in Smyrna this summer, open to students from Kent and Sussex counties. The academy will work with students on physical training, making positive choices and include a paintball competition.

Michael Wagner – The Ford Driving Skills for Life video contest in which students were asked to create videos as a "how to" for a traffic stop and how to interact with law enforcement during a stop has concluded. The winners will be announced at the Driver's Education Competition. He hopes to make this video competition an annual event. The Gift of Life Organ Donation group would like to be involved in next year's project. Current Issues in Driver's Education will take place in August – it will include additional Behind the Wheel Training and DITEP.

Michael also proposed a "Calendar of Events" that the task force members could share with their respective events. The group concurred that this would be helpful. Sarah will work on it and confirm dates with each member before the next meeting.

Revisiting a continued discussion about an insurance discount, Michael wants to approach the Insurance Commissioner to see if the combination of a completed driver's log and a completed GDL POP could result in a discount on insurance. There is no incentive right now, and many times, an incentive is more favorable than a penalty. Jana and Sarah will speak with Mitch Topal, the OHS Public Information Officer, as he knows the Commissioner, to set up a meeting.

The next Teen Driver Task Force Meeting will be held on August 2nd at 9 am in the OHS Conference Room. An invitation will follow via Outlook.